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REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Each of the claims has been amended herewith. In addition, claims 3,4,6 and 8-12 are canceled, and new claims 25-29 are submitted to replace those cancelled claims.

Initially, formal drawings are submitted herewith. The undersigned apologizes for the quality of the original drawings.

Claims 3-6, and 9-17 and 19-21 stand rejected based on informalities. In response, these informalities have been corrected (although many of these claims have been canceled.)

Certain claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101, as allegedly being directed to nonstatutory subject matter. In response, each of those claims has been amended to make it clear that the operation is carried out on a computer. As such, these claims "recite technology", and as such represent statutory subject matter.

The claims were rejected based on Brown, and other claims were rejected based on Ausubel, or Ausubel in view of Woolston. In response, these claims are amended.

I. Claims which recite online bidding environments

Initially, Brown does in fact show an online bidding session in which each of the bidders can see the current highest bid. As noted by the rejection, Brown describes how each time a bid is updated, all the browsers viewing the auction view the updated bid see column 8 lines 5-13.

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Claim 1 has been amended to recite that at least some of the bidders see a <u>list of other bidders on the auction</u> as well as seeing the current price. An objective of this claim was to make the Internet auction space look very much like a real auction space. In a real auction space, such as when all the bidders are together in an auction house, all bidders see the other users, and by virtue of sitting there in the auction, they perceive the current bid amounts. Present claim 1 is intended to simulate this auction house, by allowing updating the view to see a list of other bidders on the auction and to reflect a change in the highest bid price. This gives the feel of a real auction space. Moreover, it is respectfully suggested that nothing in Brown, or any of the other cited references, in any way suggest this feature.

II. Claims that recite storing local bid information

Claim 2 was rejected based on Ausubel. Claim 2 has been amended to recite, however, storing special information that allows the bidding process to be streamlined. Specifically, information is stored at the user's computer which enables determination of whether an entered bid is higher then a current bid amount without contacting the "first computer", that is the computer that hosts the auction. In this way, bids can be more quickly placed. For example, using this system, a user can place a bid and immediately know whether the bid is high enough or not. Without this kind of system, the local computer needs to <u>contact the server computer</u> to determine if the bid is high enough. Delays are caused by sending the information to the server, and receiving back information from that server. The present system enables a faster bidding operation, which is not in any way taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

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III. Claims which recite Single Click Bidding

Claim 13 is amended to recite a single click bidding operation. The present specification describes a quick bid operation in which the user can click on the icon, e.g. the bid amount, to automatically place a bid with a single click. Claim 13 recites this feature. None of the cited references in any way teach anything that allows single click bidding in this way.

Claim 18 has similarly been amended, and recites a system in which a bid can be placed "with a single click". Once again, this is not in any way taught or suggested by any of the cited prior art, and hence should be allowable.

IV. Claims that allow placing a bid without contacting the hosting computer

Claim 25 defines displaying an icon which, when clicked, allows the bids to be placed without contacting the first computer (that is, the computer that hosts the internet auction). None of the references teach any way in which this could be done. In fact, in each of these references, the bids can only be placed by contacting the hosting computer to determine if the bids are high enough to overcome the maximum. Therefore, claim 25 is patentable over the cited prior art.

The dependent claims define further aspects of this system; none of which are in any way taught or suggested by the cited prior art.
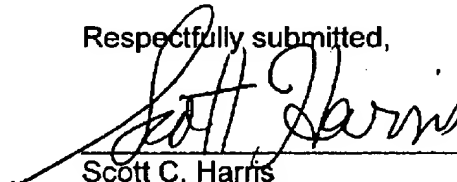
For all of these reasons, it is respectfully suggested that all of the claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice of allowance is hence respectfully requested.

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Please charge any fees due in connection with this response, including the one

month extension of time, to Deposit Account No. 50-1387.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _10/20/03_

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Attachment: Formal Drawings

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